

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MADRID 00075 051432Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13
MCT-01 EURE-00 /072 W
-----051436Z 079369 /43

P R 051337Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MADRID
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8479
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SP
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION NEGOTIATING TEAM CHOOSES FOUR OF ITS NUMBER TO
MEET WITH SUAREZ

1. THE NINE-MEMBER OPPOSITION NEGOTIATING TEAM, INCLUDING
PCE SEC GEN CARRILLO, YESTERDAY SELECTED SATRUSTEGUI (LIB-
ERAL), CANYELLAS (CATALAN CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT), GONZALEZ
(PSOE), AND JAUREGUI (BASQUE) TO MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER
SUAREZ, REPORTEDLY ON FRIDAY OR MONDAY. THE COMMUNIQUE
RELEASED AFTER YESTERDAY'S MEETING MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE
TEAM ENVISAGES THIS NEGOTIATING GROUP AS THE FIRST OF A
NUMBER OF MINI-COMMISSIONS WITH ROTATING MEMBERSHIP WHICH
WILL NEGOTIATE DIFFERENT SUBJECTS WITH SUAREZ. INTEREST-
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PAGE 02 MADRID 00075 051432Z

INGLY, SATRUSTEGUI READ THE COMMUNIQUE OVER THE PHONE TO
SUAREZ BEFORE IT WAS RELEASED, IN ORDER TO "ENSURE THAT
HE DID NOT LEARN OF IT THROUGH THE PRESS."

2. THE FIRST GROUP'S MANDATE IS TO DISCUSS THE ISSUES
OF POLITICAL AMNESTY (OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO JAUREGUI
SINCE MOST REMAINING "POLITICAL" PRISONERS ARE BASQUES)

AND THE "RECOGNITION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES." THE TEAM OBVIOUSLY SEES CONVERSATIONS ON THESE TWO GENERAL QUESTIONS AS A PRODUCTIVE STAGE-SETTER FOR TALKS ON THE ELECTORAL PROCESS ITSELF, WHICH WOULD BE TAKEN UP BY A SECOND GROUP (MEMBERSHIP UNSPECIFIED). THE OPPOSITION TEAM HOPES FOR SUBSEQUENT MINI-COMMISSIONS TO ADDRESS THE REMAINING PLANKS OF THE TEAM'S NEGOTIATING PLATFORM, WHOSE SEVEN PROVISIONS ARE:

- (1) RECOGNITION OF ALL POLITICAL PARTIES AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS;
- (2) GUARANTEE OF POLITICAL AND LABOR FREEDOMS;
- (3) DISMANTLING OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT AND ASSURANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL NEUTRALITY IN THE ELECTIONS;
- (4) THE "TRUE POLITICAL AMNESTY WHICH THE COUNTRY NEEDS;"
- (5) EQUAL ACCESS TO THE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION;
- (6) NEGOTIATION OF THE PROCEDURES WHICH WILL GOVERN THE ELECTIONS; AND
- (7) RECOGNITION OF THE POLITICAL IDENTITY OF THE NATIONALITIES AND THE REGIONS.

3. THE EMPLOYMENT OF ROTATING MEMBERSHIP, WHICH ALLOWS ALL NINE MEMBERS TO RECEIVE TOP BILLING, PROBABLY WAS THE EASIEST WAY TO ACHIEVE A CONSENSUS. BECAUSE IT LEAVES OPEN THE QUESTION OF PCE PARTICIPATION IN SOME FUTURE GROUP, IT ALSO PERMITS THE PCE IN PARTICULAR AND THE OPPOSITION GENERALLY TO MAINTAIN A THIN COVER OF NOT HAVING PERMITTED THE GOVT TO "DICTATE" THE COMPOSITION OF THE NEGOTIATING GROUP. CARRILLO REPORTEDLY STATED AT THE END OF THE MEETING THAT HIS ABSENCE FROM THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MADRID 00075 051432Z

FIRST GROUP OF FOUR DID NOT MEAN THAT THE PCE HAD RENOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO PARTICIPATE, AND THAT HIS TURN WOULD COME. HOWEVER, STATEMENTS FROM VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE TEAM CONTINUE TO INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE UNLIKELY TO INSIST ON THEIR PRESENCE. THE REAL QUESTION MAY BE HOW LONG SUAREZ, WHO IS PREPARED TO TALK WITH OTHER POLITICAL GROUPS (INCLUDING, OF COURSE, ALIANZA POPULAR), WILL WISH TO KEEP THESE TALKS GOING. STABLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: OPPOSITION PARTIES, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MADRID00075
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770004-0466
Format: TEL
From: MADRID
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770179/aaaacqvy.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 13e95cdd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3659543
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPPOSITION NEGOTIATING TEAM CHOOSES FOUR OF ITS NUMBER TO MEET WITH SUAREZ
TAGS: PINT, SP
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/13e95cdd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009